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1913

First Annual Report

OF THE

Edmonton Public Library

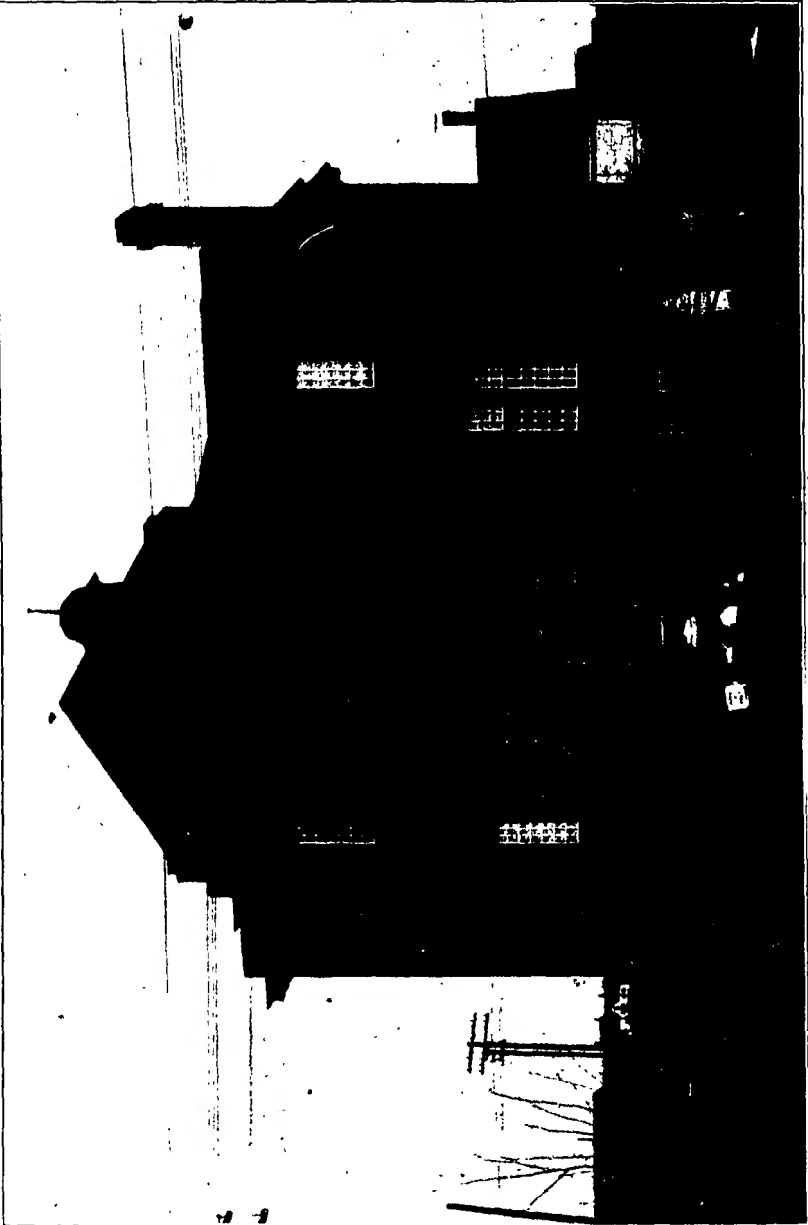
AND

Strathcona Public Library

WITH HISTORICAL SKETCHES BY MRS. ANNE
NEWALL AND MR. GEORGE M. HALL

Edmonton

Alberta



STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1913
First Annual Report
of the
Edmonton Public Library
and
Strathcona Public Library

With Historical Sketches by Mrs. Anne Newall and
Mr. George M. Hall

Edmonton

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1913

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

K. W. MACKENZIE, B.A. - - - Chairman

MAYOR WM. SHORT, K.C., (Ex-Officio).

F. A. HILLIARD - - - Secretary-Treasurer

L. N. ALLYN - HON. N. D. BECK

ALD. J. E. LUNDY - JOHN R. McINTOSH

C. ROSS PALMER (resigned)

STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

EX-MAYOR J. J. DUGGAN - - - Chairntan

MAYOR WM. SHORT, K.C., (Ex-Officio).

J. H. McDONALD - - - Secretary-Treasurer

ALD. H. A. CALDER

E. L. HILL

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1914

A. M. McDONALD, B.A. - - - Chairman

MAYOR W. J. McNAMARA (Ex-Officio)

F. A. HILLIARD - - - Secretary-Treasurer

L. A. GIROUX - DR. F. S. MACPHERSON

A. T. MODE - T. C. SANDERS

LIBRARY STAFF

LIBRARIAN

E. L. HILL, B.A., M.Sc.

ASSISTANTS

R. B. MAIR

ALICE D. CRUIKSHANK, B.A. - - Cataloguer
(N. Y. State Library School)

ELIZABETH J. MACKENZIE, B.A. - Asst. Cataloguer

KATHLEEN CALHOUN, B.A. - Chief Asst., Central Library
(Wisconsin Univ. Library School).

GRACE DOBIE - - Record Clerk and Cashier

MAY KENNEDY

PANSY BOLTON

ANNIE JOYCE

} Loan Desk Assts, Central Library

EVALYN SRIGLEY - - Reference Asst. (evening)

JOHN JOHNS - - Caretaker and Messenger

STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

GRACE SANDERS - - - Chief Assistant

NELLIE ELLIS - - Assistant Cataloguer

EDITH CALDER - - Loan Desk Assistant

FRANCES SAWYER - - Reference Assistant
(Wisconsin Univ. Library School)

CHARLES FLACK - - - - Page

ARTHUR McKEOWN - Caretaker and Messenger

HOURS AND SERVICE

CENTRAL LIBRARY

(Temporary Quarters) Corner Jasper Ave. and Fourth St.

HOURS:

Reading Rooms	- -	9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
Circulation Department	- -	9.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Children's Department	-	Closed during school hours Closes at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Reading Rooms (for Adults only)	-	2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
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STRATHCONA LIBRARY

Main St. North.

HOURS:

Reading Rooms	- -	9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
Circulation Department	- -	9.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Children's Department	-	Closed during school hours Closes at 8 p.m.
Men's Reading Room	- -	9.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

Reading Rooms (for Adults only)	-	2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
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PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT

The Libraries were organized and are operated under the Public Libraries Act, enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta and assented to by His Majesty on March 15th, 1907.

The following extracts from the Act will show something of the provisions and the powers conferred upon the Board of management:

3. A free public library may be established in any municipality in manner hereinafter provided.
9. Whenever a public library is established under this Act the general management, regulation and control of the library shall be vested in and exercised by a board of management, which board shall be a body politic and corporate and shall be known as "The (name of town or city) Library Board."

In municipalities where the population exceeds 15,000 the board shall be composed of seven members as follows: The mayor or other head official of the municipality shall be ex officio a member of the board during his term of office, and the council shall appoint from among the resident electors of the municipality the remaining six members of the board, three of whom shall hold office until the date of the first meeting of the council in January of the year following their appointment, and the other two shall hold office until the date of the first meeting of the council in January of the second year following their appointment.

24. The board shall purchase such books, newspapers, reviews, magazines and maps for the use of the library and reading room as may be deemed advisable, and it shall do all things necessary for keeping the same in a proper state of preservation and repair; the board shall also provide such fixtures, furnishings, fuel, lighting and supplies as may be requisite for the proper

maintenance and accommodation of the library; and it shall have power to appoint and dismiss such officers, servants and employees as it may think fit.

25. The board may make by-laws and regulations for the safety and use of the library and reading room and for the admission of the public thereto; and for regulating all other matters and things whatsoever connected with the management of the library and of the reading room, and with the management of all property of every kind under their control for the purpose of this Act; and the board may from time to time repeal, alter, vary or re-enact any such by-laws or regulations.
26. Any person who wilfully commits a breach of any by-law or regulation referred to in the next preceding section shall for each offence on summary conviction thereof before a justice of the peace or police magistrate forfeit and pay for library purposes to the municipality within which the offence was committed a sum not exceeding \$10 together with the costs of conviction as the said justice or police magistrate may think fit.
27. Nothing herein contained shall preclude the recovery of the value of articles or things damaged, not returned or destroyed as the amount of damages sustained from parties liable for the same.
29. The board of management shall keep distinct and regular accounts of their receipts, payments, credits and liabilities and the accounts shall be audited by the auditors of the municipality in like manner and at the same time as other accounts of the municipality and shall immediately thereafter be laid before the council by the board of management.
30. For the purpose of providing for the expenses necessary for carrying this Act into effect the council in addition to all other rates and assessments levied and assessed for municipal purposes may levy and assess from year to year a special annual rate to furnish the amount estimated by the board to be required as aforesaid, but not exceeding one mill in the dollar upon the assessed value of all rateable real and personal property, such rate to be called "The Public Library Rate."
35. When the board of any public library fails or neglects to open the library to the public for a period of two years, the council may make an ex parte application

to a judge of the Supreme Court for an order declaring the said library to be dissolved, and vesting in the municipality all the real and personal property of the board; and it shall then be lawful for the council through its proper officers to take possession of the said property and dispose of the same as may be deemed advisable.

36. The council upon the request of the board of any public library within its jurisdiction may appoint the janitor to be while holding such office a special constable; and such special constable shall have the special duty of preserving the peace in the rooms of the library and in the building in which the library is situated, and of preventing stealing, injuring or destroying the property of the library or any breach of the peace therein, and of apprehending offenders, and he shall have generally all the powers and privileges and be liable to all the duties and responsibilities which pertain to the office of a constable.
37. Any person who wilfully disturbs or disquiets any person in a public library established and conducted under the authority of this Act by rude or indecent behaviour or by making a noise shall for each offence on summary conviction thereof before a police magistrate or justice of the peace forfeit and pay for library purposes to the municipality within which the offence was committed a sum not exceeding \$20 together with costs of conviction as the said police magistrate or justice may think fit.

39. All libraries and reading rooms established under this Act shall be open to the public free of all charges.

Section-531, Chapter 23 Statutes of the Province of Alberta, February-March, 1913:

"The council may pass a by-law providing for only one library board, and upon the passing thereof the Strathcona library board shall become dissolved and cease to be a body politic and corporate, and all its powers, authorities, liabilities and property shall thereupon be transferred to and become vested in the Edmonton Library Board."

HISTORICAL SKETCH

MRS. ANNE NEWALL

The credit for the initial movement towards the establishment of a public library in Edmonton probably belongs to Mr. J. T. Travis-Barker, who in 1908, a year after the Library Act was passed by the Provincial Legislature, circulated the petition requisite for its establishment under that Act. But the city was young, growing rapidly and looking ahead eagerly along the lines of material progress; it had increased its population during the past decade 800 per cent.; the C. N. R. had come to the city two years before; the G. T. P. was headed this way and actually opened two years later. It was not surprising that the first petition failed to secure the requisite number of signatures. But it started people thinking.

In 1909 the Science Master of Calgary High School and Secretary-Treasurer of Calgary Public Library, became Inspector of Schools for Strathcona District. This gentleman (E. L. Hill, B.A., M.Sc.), had a hobby which he had ridden to the advantage of our neighboring city, and previously to that when Science Master of Guelph Collegiate Institute, to the great benefit of Guelph, Ont. This hobby was books—books for the people—easy of access—well selected—well housed in public libraries. His successful services in Guelph and Calgary had been warmly appreciated and he proved to be the right man arriving in our midst at the psychological moment for it was largely due to his influence on both sides of the river that in 1909 a petition was again circulated, and this time with marked success. The by-law passed with a large majority and the Edmonton Library Board was appointed consisting of Mayor Lee, Alderman Lundy, C. Ross Palmer, K. W. McKenzie, Judge Beck, Prof. Riddell and L. Madore.

In June, 1910 a site was purchased on College Avenue overlooking the river and negotiations were opened with Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a grant to cover a suitable building at a suggested cost of \$100,000. But Mr. Carnegie had not visited Edmonton and what the promoters of the Library knew to be the least possible accommodation needed by the rapidly growing city; appeared to the Secretary of the Carnegie Library Fund as a dream of the future unlikely to be realized. This was in May, 1911.

Meanwhile Strathcona had also become infected with the Library Bug. The necessary petition had been successfully circulated and the by-law passed by a large majority in Novem-

ber, 1910 and a Library Board appointed consisting of Mayor J. J. Duggan, E. L. Hill, J. H. MacDonald, Arthur Davies and H. A. Calder. The present site was granted by the council on January 17th, 1911, and \$2,500 per annum guaranteed for maintenance, and the Board wrote the Carnegie Library Fund for a grant of \$25,000 for the building. Mr. Carnegie offered \$15,000 in May, 1911, which was at first accepted, but in consequence of some stipulations which could not be met and a feeling of doubt in the mind of Mr. Carnegie's secretary as to whether the population of Strathcona warranted so large a library, after some correspondence it was decided to ask the Council to "vote debentures for \$25,000 to pay for a library building to be erected as a municipal institution." This was granted and the by-law was passed with only seven dissentients on December 18th, 1911. The plans submitted by Messrs. Wilson & Herrald were selected at a final cost of \$30,000 and as it was found that the "frontage of 66 feet already allotted would be insufficient for the building to be placed to good advantage," the council were applied to and granted the next adjoining lot. The contract was given to Mr. Wm. Dietz; the plumbing to Messrs. Carter & Co., and the grounds were laid out by Mr. T. B. Morrow. The work of one and all has been eminently satisfactory, and Strathcona is rightly proud of her Library building.

The first order for books and furnishings for the Strathcona Library was authorized July 5th, 1912.

In February, 1912, the cities of Strathcona and Edmonton were amalgamated and in May of that year the Edmonton Library board received a letter from Mr. Carnegie asking if it would be practicable to have one building for the amalgamated city. The Secretary was instructed to send a marked map showing site, bridges and construction and calling his attention to the increasing population. As Mr. Carnegie in reply refused to consider the grant except on a basis of 24,000 population, negotiations were dropped and the question of a municipal building again considered. Meantime the Strathcona Library Board was forging ahead; their building was in course of erection, books and furnishings ordered, rooms rented for storage and preparation, Miss Sanders and Miss Bolton engaged to assist with the preparatory work. Surely an unprecedented condition had arisen. The two cities were now one and Strathcona Library must be considered as a branch of the Edmonton Library; but it looked as if nothing could prevent the branch opening before the main institution!

On September 19th, 1912, a joint meeting of the north and south Boards was called and Mr. Hill was asked to become

Librarian for both Boards with jurisdiction covering the amalgamated cities. Events began to move rapidly. On October 15th the Librarian was instructed to prepare a list of 5,000 volumes for the north and "a committee appointed to secure suitable temporary quarters for housing the books." In December we find "Mr. Hill empowered to employ necessary help and assistants" and committees appointed to select furniture and rent the rooms now in use on Fourth and Jasper.

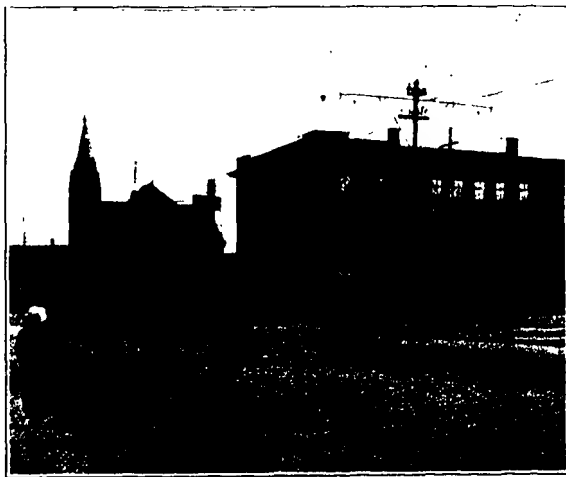
About this time Mr. Geo. M. Hill, who was going to New York, was commissioned to interview the secretary of the Carnegie Library Fund with a view to coming to some more definite understanding than seemed possible by correspondence. Mr. Hill interviewed the secretary, pointed out to him that Edmonton is the capital city of a very progressive province, that the previous Dominion census declared its population to be 28,000 and that it was certain to be about 40,000 before the building could be finished. These figures have long been passed. In January, 1913, a letter was received from the secretary promising a grant of \$75,000, but this letter not being explicit as to whether this sum was to be the total expended on the building, a reply was forwarded explaining that Edmonton considered it necessary to erect a Library that would be adequate to the assured development of the City's needs, and after much deliberation had come to the conclusion that a suitable building could not be erected for a less amount than \$200,000. Could Mr. Carnegie's grant be used to supplement \$125,000 from the City; if so upon what conditions? The conditions laid down are that the plans be first submitted for approval and the grant used for the final payment completing the building entirely free from debt. The matter rests there at the present time. Negotiations are proceeding for additional frontage.

In February, 1913 the Strathcona building was finished and the furnishing and placing of books began. The Reading room on the north side was opened to the public March 13th, 1913 and the Strathcona library was formally opened by Ex-Mayor Duggan on the following day. The speakers were J. H. MacDonald, E. L. Hill, Alderman Calder, Mayor Short, Prof. Broadus and Dr. Rutherford. The good things said cannot even be hinted at in this sketch, but one note was sounded again and again, recognizing the fact that while many had done valiantly, the main spring of the library movement centred in the untiring enthusiasm and skilled activity of Librarian Hill. The musical part of the opening exercises was provided by Mrs. Fleming, Miss Cox, Miss Hill, Major G. W. Marriott and Mr. Mozer.

Edmonton North Side Library opened its loan department

on the 27th of March. The success of both libraries has been phenomenal. Only a year old and yet the figures outstrip all but a very few libraries in the Dominion! The perusal of the Librarian's report shows conditions in the cold light of stubborn facts that would otherwise be almost unbelievable. Edmonton ranks high among the up-to-date cities in possessing a large reading public, using the best literature and making use of every opportunity put within its reach. The premises on Jasper Avenue had to be enlarged in January, 1914 and are even now becoming again straitened for room.

The Strathcona Auditorium is greatly appreciated, being used regularly by the Edmonton Medical Association, the Ladies' Hospital League, the W. C. T. U.; it has been used by Robertson College for its closing exercises, and various organizations use it for committee meetings. These in addition to the Children's Story-hour every Saturday.



EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY—TEMPORARY QUARTERS

GENERAL REPORT

To the Board of Management of the Edmonton Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:

Herewith are given some statistics of the work of the Libraries for the year 1913.

The statements submitted apply in most cases to the period of slightly over nine months during which the circulation department has been in operation. The records are full of encouragement. It would seem that never before were a public so appreciative of library privileges. Unforseen demands have been made upon the as yet slender resources of the Libraries. But for the liberality of the Boards and the scope given the Librarian and Staff, these demands would have been scantily met.

The almost overwhelming patronage of the libraries has shown the urgent need. The wonderful book circulation speaks well for the intelligence of the community—too new to be composed of many who may be considered to have much leisure.

The patrons of the Libraries have come from all sections of the city's life. An examination of the ten thousand names entered on the Borrower's Registers in nine months, reveals the complex character of our city population and the widespread need for generous library privileges. The appreciation of the public has been expressed in the most tangible forms—respect for the library rules and care for the library property. The rare instances of boorishness stand markedly in contrast with the well-nigh universal loyalty of the visitors to the library and reading rooms.

Property
of the
Board

The Board has the Strathcona Public Library situated on three lots, of the Civic block at the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue North. Value of building \$30,000.

The Central Library is located in temporary quarters (not owned by the Board) in the Chisholm block on the corner of Jasper Avenue and Fourth Street.

Site

The Board owns two lots on College Avenue purchased in 1910 as a site for the Edmonton Library. As this property has

only one hundred feet of frontage it has been felt that it would be useless to attempt to erect a suitable building on so narrow a site. With a view to securing additional space negotiations are being carried on with the School Board to bring about an exchange of the library site for the adjoining old High School site. Unforeseen difficulties have arisen owing to peculiarities in the survey of this and the adjoining properties. Value of site \$75,000.

A few months of occupancy of the Strathcona Library has demonstrated its general suitability.

The grounds were laid out last summer in a most tasteful fashion by Mr. T. B. Morrow, landscape gardener, and presented a most creditable appearance in a very few weeks. A very moderate expenditure during the coming summer will make this library property one of the most beautiful corners in the city.

Grounds

A word of approval is due the caretaker of the Strathcona Library—Mr. Arthur McKeown. His care of the grounds and building and his unceasing interest in the welfare of the Library have been most praiseworthy. He has also acted as Library Constable as provided by the Public Libraries Act.

Caretaking

Mr. John Johns, caretaker of the temporary quarters, has faithfully discharged his duties.

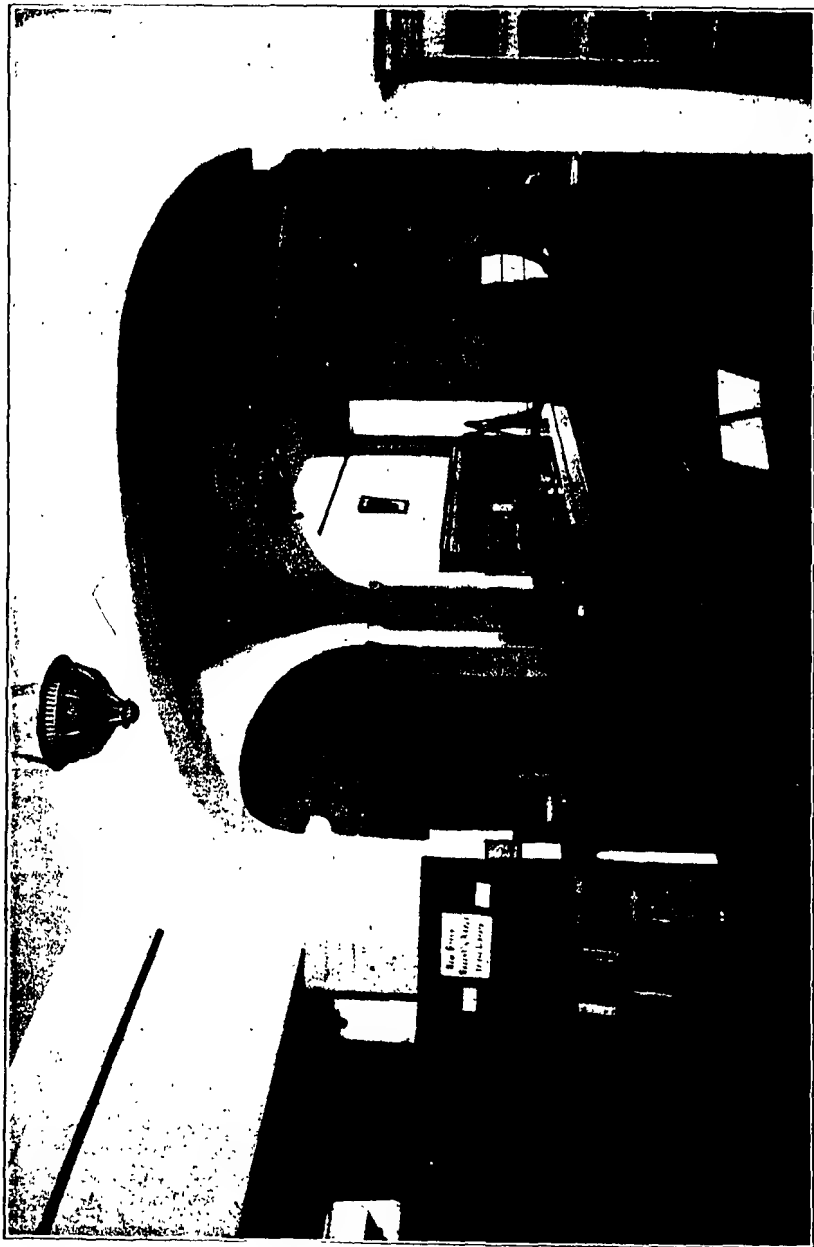
The staff of assistants have displayed enthusiasm in the discharge of their duties. They have been encouraged to treat the public with courtesy and promptness on all occasions.

Staff

The Librarian desires to take this opportunity of expressing to the Board his appreciation of the unvarying kindness with which he and his staff have been treated by all the members of the Board. Without this generous treatment it would have been impossible to carry on the work which has been at times exacting owing to the lack of accommodation.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. HILL,
Librarian.



STRATTONA PUBLIC LIBRARY—LOAN DESK

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

In line with best modern library policy, the practice of open access was adopted. The general public are thus brought into contact with the books—a matter of no small educational value. The borrower is given an opportunity of seeing and examining the books relating to any subject in which he may be interested. Many expressions of approval of the plan have been received. In a few cases only has the privilege been abused.

Open
Access

The Newark charging system has been used. The system has enabled the staff to handle, with quickness and precision, the business of the loan desk even during Saturday evening rush hours.

Charging
System

A borrower's card is issued free of charge to any resident of Edmonton who complies with the rules of the library.

Borrowers'
Register

Application cards duly signed are utilized for the formation of an alphabetic register of borrowers. In addition a numerical register is kept.

Though every borrower has signed an agreement promising to "give immediate notice of change of address," the staff have found it very difficult to get some borrowers to live up to their promises. In a young city like Edmonton where the floating population is so large and the boarding house forms so important a factor, changes of address are very frequent.

The year closed (after a little over nine months' operation) with over 8,000 names on the borrowers' registers. The work involved in the issuing of borrowers' cards, the compiling of the registers and the necessary alterations from time to time, represents the expenditure of a great deal of time and care. The greater part of the work fell to the lot of Miss Sanders and Miss Dobie whose care and accuracy are deserving of much praise.

When the Library opened borrowers were allowed only one book on a card. This fact accounts in a measure for the large percentage of fiction borrowed. As soon as possible the privilege of two books on a card was extended. Examination of books on the shelves shows a constant demand for standard fiction. There has been a steady demand for works on travel and description, particularly those relating to Western Canada. Biography has been much used. In the Department of Useful Arts, it has been difficult to supply the demand for books on engineering, gardening, poultry culture, etc., etc.

Character
of Circulation

**Reserved
Books**

Non-fiction may be reserved by application at the Loan Desk. Borrowers are encouraged to take advantage of this privilege. This practice encourages the reading of many of the more useful books and gives the library staff a clue as to what volumes to duplicate.

**Display
Case**

New books, other than fiction, are placed on the display shelves as soon as catalogued. This has been done to give borrowers a chance to see new books in travel, history, science, etc., etc. The plan has been found to work effectually in favor of increased circulation of non-fiction.

**Overdue
Books**

A fine of two cents per day is charged on all overdue books. In all but a very few cases this charge has been cheerfully acknowledged. The staff are instructed to collect in every case. No allowance can be made.

Books have been returned with commendable promptness. Occasionally it has been necessary to send the library messenger.

The following figures from the Strathcona records illustrate the clerical work in this connection:

Number of notices sent for Overdues to December, 1913:

First Notices	749
Second Notices	196
Third Notices (letters)	30
Number of Times Messenger Was Sent	14

Disinfection

The officials of the Health Department have kindly co-operated with the Library management so as to secure efficient disinfection of books in homes where contagious disease has occurred. The danger from handling books in such cases is much less than is generally supposed. Library records show that contagious disease is extremely rare among library attendants.

Carbogasoline (Beebe) disinfection has been employed in the Library without apparent damage to the books treated.

MEMORANDUM

In order to give an idea of the extent of the operations of the Library for the first twelve months of its existence the following figures are appended:

Figures for First Twelve Months.

	Strathcona.	Edmonton.	Total.
No. of Vols. accessioned.....	10819	12250	23069
No. of Registered Borrowers.....	3445	6867	10312
Total Circulation for Home Use...	72829	120655	193484

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS, 1913—EDMONTON CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
General Works	0	7	6	4	6	4	3	3	5	2	40
Philosophy	5	19	23	21	25	33	39	59	66	70	360
Religion	6	25	36	43	41	80	67	81	97	103	579
Sociology	3	50	92	82	89	114	143	200	179	182	1134
Philology	0	00	00	2	0	3	9	3	8	4	29
Nat. Science	4	28	57	64	69	86	105	110	117	117	757
Useful Arts	11	91	109	138	181	236	237	254	275	280	1812
Fine Arts	5	21	55	46	70	78	100	125	135	165	800
Literature	5	48	104	108	119	132	167	220	255	234	1392
History	15	58	78	120	109	85	127	129	119	105	945
Travel	2	48	91	63	120	178	160	176	225	258	1321
Biography	7	33	47	41	69	108	139	140	168	170	922
Fiction, A-Z	228	2325	3843	4111	5035	6116	6671	7309	7977	8165	51810
J. Fiction	14	461	1042	1283	1328	1442	1335	1565	1655	1354	11479
J. N. Fiction	4	50	264	378	279	322	380	492	675	534	3378
Periodicals											
Total for Month.....	309	3264	5847	6534	7540	9017	9682	10866	11956	11743	76758

Total for nine months and four days ending December 31st, 1913: 76758.

Total circulation for the city: 129,879.

These statistics do not include books loaned for use in the Reading Rooms—estimated at 100 volumes per day.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS, 1913—STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
General Works											20
Philosophy	5	3	2	16	3	1	28	4	6	1	207
Religion	8	15	16	27	25	26	21	21	22	27	202
Sociology	19	57	40	47	54	45	56	84	88	65	555
Philology	2				2	1	1		1	5	12
Nat. Science	11	17	37	38	32	19	19	26	30	32	261
Useful Arts	37	61	59	64	58	66	66	64	55	75	605
Fine Arts	12	24	26	29	25	28	33	39	32	46	294
Literature	17	56	63	53	66	53	57	103	141	133	742
History	19	84	53	27	40	32	47	39	53	48	442
Travel	60	49	78	86	75	81	71	82	123	113	818
Biography	23	48	42	48	54	44	52	54	71	88	524
Piction, A-Z	1306	2865	3448	3505	3750	4171	3895	3751	4090	4000	34690
J. Fiction	648	1148	990	944	1236	1115	889	1179	1304	1308	10761
J. N. Fiction	201	354	311	307	253	221	185	240	298	339	2718
Periodicals		3			1	9	21	43	33	60	170
Total for Month.....	2362	4803	5281	5191	5700	5040	5441	5758	6282	6363	53121

Total for 9½ months ending December 31st, 1913: 53,121.



STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY—MAIN STAIR

179537

PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT

Newspapers

The cosmopolitan character of the population of a western city makes it difficult to select sufficient papers to cover the field.

An attempt has been made to provide newspapers representative of journalism in all parts of Canada, Great Britain and the United States. Australian and New Zealand papers have been furnished by the governments of these portions of the Empire.

Periodicals have been chosen keeping in view the varied needs of the community. Literary, artistic and technical values have been the chief considerations. Limited space has forbidden the collection of propagandist journals.

Men's
Reading
Room.



Magazine Circulation

Besides the magazines found in the Reading rooms, we have been able, in the Strathcona Library, to inaugurate magazine circulation. Current issues of such magazines as Century, Harper's, Scribner's, Strand, and Popular Mechanics have been issued for circulation in the same way as books.

Bound Periodicals

In the Strathcona Library space has been found for some 1,500 volumes of bound magazines. These include among others complete sets of:

Illustrated London News.

Harper's Monthly.

Edinburgh Review.

Quarterly Review.

Hibbert Journal.

Macmillan's Magazine.

Review of Reviews.

World's Work.

Canadian Magazine.

American City.

Scribner's.

Complete sets or runs of recent years of some twenty more magazines are also on the shelves. Outstanding orders for further bound periodicals will make available a large amount of indexed material eminently useful for preparing a paper or address upon any current topic.

Poole's Index to Periodical Literature, covering a large number of periodicals from 1802, may be consulted.

The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature makes readily accessible the titles of articles appearing in about 100 of the leading magazines, extending as far back as 1900. By monthly issues this guide indexes material of latest numbers of the best periodicals. It is therefore of great value for securing sources of information upon subjects that may not be covered by even recent books.



Corner of
General
Reading
Room,
Strathcona

Average Number in General Reading Room Per Day	
Strathcona	40
Edmonton	125
Average Number in General Reading Room on Sunday	
Strathcona	27
Edmonton	55
Average Number in Children's Reading Room Per Day	
Strathcona	50
Edmonton	20
Average Number in Men's Room Per Day	
Strathcona	65

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The Reference Department contains much valuable material to which constant additions are being made. Lack of room, particularly in the temporary quarters, has made reference work peculiarly difficult. Probably no feature has suffered so severely as this, because of the lack of a suitable building.

In spite of the handicap much useful work has been done, and hosts of inquiries have been satisfactorily answered.

This department is indebted to the Henderson Directories Co., for the gift of a complete set of directories of the cities of Western Canada.

Encyclo- pædias

The reference Department is furnished with the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Nelson Loose-Leaf Encyclopaedia and Century Cyclopaedia.

Technical Reference

For Technical Reference, among other volumes, the Library has over one hundred volumes of the International Library of Technology.

Periodical Files

Back numbers of 34 periodicals, indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, are kept filed in suitable cases so as to be immediately available for reference. This number is considerably increased for 1914.

Bibli- ographies Prepared

Lists of books and magazine articles bearing upon the following topics have been prepared during the year:

Music and Musicians.	Arthurian Legends.
Horticulture.	Canadian History.
Commission Government.	Socialism.
Panama Canal.	Debating.
History of Architecture.	Etc., etc.

In addition to the foregoing a large number of topics have been handled by the Department for individuals preparing papers or addresses on various subjects.

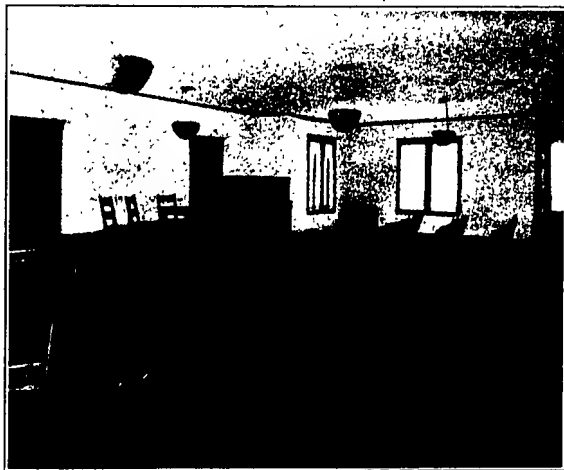
YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Great care has been taken in the selection of books for the Young People's Department. Efforts have been made to provide good, attractive books. Artistic illustration, clear type, and substantial binding have been demanded always and secured whenever possible. Many publishers nowadays are producing children's books of great merit. Editions of the old favorites with illustrations by the best artists are now easily obtainable. The Library seeks to bring the child into contact with the best in art as well as the best in literature.

**Book
Selection**

In order to encourage the love of the beautiful and to teach the care of books, a Clean Hands Collection has been established

**Clean
Hands
Collection**



**Corner of
Auditorium,
Strathcona**

in a special closed case in the Strathcona Library. These books are particularly choice in binding and illustration. Clean hands and the promise of special care are demanded of applicants as the price of admission to this special privilege.

The Story Hour for children on Saturday afternoon from 3 to 4 in the auditorium was started on October 4. Since Miss Sawyer's resignation it has been carried on successfully by Miss Sanders.

**Story
Hour**

The usual method is to begin with a reading or recitation; then stories are told from the same author or period. This may be followed by a talk on some topic connected with books

or their care. More frequently there is given a review of other books by the author under consideration, and suggestions are made for further reading.

The material dealt with is varied from time to time to suit the different school grades. In all cases the best standard authors have been chosen, the *raison d'être* of the story hour being not so much to provide amusement as to familiarize the children with the cream of our literature so that they may be encouraged to read along proper lines and thus escape the contamination of bad books.

The attendance has been large, and the unflagging attention and interest evinced give ample proof of the popularity of the service rendered by the library staff.

After the story hour newcomers are taken in charge, shown the various parts of the Young People's Department and encouraged to make application for borrower's cards.

A pleasing feature of the Young People's Department is the large number of children of non-English speaking parentage who are regular patrons of the library. Some of these new citizens have read an astonishing number of good books during the year.

CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT

The Library has no printed catalogue in book form except a fiction catalogue as described below. Any printed catalogue would be out-of-date before it was off the press. New books are being placed on the shelves daily.

The open access system largely obviates the use of a printed catalogue. Readers are able to see and examine the books on any subject as they stand on the shelves. The system of classification adopted is expansive: i.e., all the books on any topic stand side by side on the shelf allotted. And as the new books on this topic are catalogued they are placed with those already in position.

Particular attention is directed to the fact that the Library maintains a Card Catalogue of most modern type. This catalogue is quite as easily consulted as a book and lists all material even the very latest addition to the Library. It is arranged in "alphabetic" form and may be called a "Dictionary Catalogue." Each book is recorded under its author's name, under its title, and usually under one or more subject headings. Frequently one book will be represented by from five to ten cards.

Card
Catalogue

The catalogue is provided with suitable guide cards and cross-references.

The Young People's Department has its own Card Catalogue, and one of the duties of the staff in dealing with the children is to teach them to use such a catalogue.

The task of making these catalogues which are indispensable for library use, has been ably performed by Miss Alice D. Cruikshank, B.A., whose services the Board were fortunate enough to secure some months before the Library opened. Miss Cruikshank has had the advantage of training in the New York State Library School at Albany, and subsequent experience on the cataloguing staff of Columbia University. Her ability and experience combined with utmost care have insured the accuracy and efficiency of the four card catalogues now owned by the Library. These contain some 65,000 type-written cards. Miss Mackenzie and Miss Ellis have given much valuable help in the typing. Mr. Mair has been responsible for most of the "subject-headings," which he has selected with extreme care.

For the use of the staff the "Shelf-List" has been carefully prepared. This represents a card entry for each volume in the Library—the cards being arranged as the books stand on the

Shelf
List

shelves. The shelf-list enables the staff to "take stock" of any section of the Library at any time.

Dewey Decimal System

The system of classification adopted is the Dewey Decimal. The books are divided into ten classes. These classes are divided into ten subdivisions, and these again subdivided as far as required.

The ten great groups are as follows:

General Works	000	Natural Science	500
Philosophy	100	Useful Arts	600
Religion	200	Fine Arts	700
Sociology	300	Literature	800
Philology	400	History	900

For example, a general work on Natural Science will be 500, a work on Mathematics will be 510, a work on Algebra 512.

Thus 512 means Class 5 (Natural Science), Division 1 (Mathematics), Section 2 (Algebra), and every Algebra is classed as 512.

Fiction Catalogue

The fiction is arranged on the shelves alphabetically by authors. To facilitate the finding of books by title and to give readers a more intelligent idea of the character and value of various works of fiction, we have had the H. W. Wilson Company, expert bibliographers, prepare and print for us in book form an annotated catalogue of a great deal of the fiction in the Library. This catalogue contains entries for both author and title, and embodies important annotations of great value. It guides the reader in making choice of the proper sequence when novels occur in series. It enables one to make choice of the representative or outstanding works of the great writers of fiction.

ORDER DEPARTMENT

Extreme care has been exercised in the selection of books. The best available sources of information, such as the leading reviews, the American Library Association Book List, the Book Review Digest, Nelson's Standard Books, etc., etc., have been drawn upon.

It has been impossible to place on the shelves in the short time during which the Library has been in operation all the material that might be reasonably looked for in a public library. Deficiencies are being made up as fast as possible.

GIFTS TO THE STRATHCONA LIBRARY

In the Entrance Hall, facing the loan desk, stands "The Prayer of Faith," a beautiful bronze statue by F. Fleming Baxter, presented to the Library by the sculptor as an expression of his interest and faith in this far western metropolis. It was previously exhibited at the International Exhibition, Grafton Galleries, London, England, in 1910. Through the interest of J. M. Douglas, M.P., and O. Bush, Esq., the customs charges were refunded, making it possible to obtain this valuable addition to the Library, free of duty. Mr. F. Fleming Baxter has exhibited several other notable pieces of sculpture, and is now at work on a memorial tablet to be placed in Guy's Hospital, London, England, in honor of Sir Samuel Wilks.

Other valuable gifts to the Library have been a handsome set of Norse literature and many other handsome volumes from Mr. D. E. Herrald, who also donated a valuable set of engravings.

Miss Grace Sanders presented the three rare old engravings dated 1738—portraits of Francis Bacon, Addison and Ben Jonson—which adorn the wall of the reading rooms.



PRAYER OF FAITH

Presented by Mr. F. Fleming Baxter, Sculptor, London, England

EDMONTON, CAPITAL OF ALBERTA

GEORGE M. HALL.

For more than a hundred and fifty years, Edmonton was a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company and made almost no advance in size or importance. Suddenly there came a change, and Edmonton advanced at a step into the ranks of towns of size and importance. Resting at this stage of growth for a time, Edmonton took another giant stride forward and is now a city of over 70,000 population, with wide streets, boulevards that stretch, green and grassy, for miles, fine residences, substantial buildings and excellent shops and stores, banks, hotels and theatres, parks and public playgrounds, churches, colleges, and an excellent public school system; railroads, street cars, and automobiles in hundreds; in short a city with all the advantages and conveniences of modern life has burst forth from the trading post that stood on the banks of the Saskatchewan for so many decades, a rendezvous for trappers and Indians, an abiding place in the wilderness of the West for the few white men who lived here and carried on the business of the great trading company into whose hands King Charles II gave the whole country of Western Canada as a thing scarcely worth the while to give or take, and without a thought of the vast capacity for usefulness contained within the grant.

The Hudson's Bay Fort was built in 1796, and from this fort the City of Edmonton has been evolved. Real settlement of the district appears to have taken place about 1861, although some farming operations by Hudson's Bay men were noted in 1825.

In 1883, Edmonton sent its first representative to the Dominion Parliament, being qualified to do so by having 1000 white people within an area of 1000 square miles.

In 1902, Edmonton was incorporated as a village, and in 1904 took on the dignity of a city although one of small size with but seven thousand people. This was a big advance from 1899, when there were only 1200 people in Edmonton. Although

the steam railway came in 1891, its stopping place was Strathcona, and Edmonton did not benefit much.

In 1906 the Canadian Northern Railway reached Edmonton from Winnipeg, opening a rich country that had only Red River carts for transportation before. In 1910, the Grand Trunk Pacific completed the part of its transcontinental line lying between Winnipeg and Edmonton, and the city received another push toward progress and prosperity. Within a year Edmonton will be on two transcontinental lines that will be running trains from coast to coast.

Edmonton owns all of its public utilities and operates under the single tax system. The total assessment in 1913 was \$187,941,920, and the rate 16 mills on the dollar.

Edmonton has 91 miles of sewers; 111 miles of water mains; 140 miles of sidewalks; 32 miles of paved streets; 801 acres of public parks.

There are 26 chartered banks and branches in Edmonton with clearings for 1913 of \$213,053, 319.

Building permits and passengers carried on the street cars show the rapid progress made by Edmonton as clearly as may be. Edmonton building permits in 1905 amounted to \$702,724; in 1913, to \$9,242,450. Passengers carried on the street cars in 1911 were 6,296,824; in 1913, 17,208,487.

